

Sicily Harvest Tours



FOOD & WINE HARVEST TOUR: 9/25-10/3/19

OLIVE HARVEST TOUR: 10/4-10/12/19

OLIVE HARVEST TOUR: 10/13-10/21/19

Hosted by Stefano & Vitina Feo, Papa Vince USA

*“Come with us to the enchanting island of Sicily in 2019.
We specialize in small group touring that will fully immerse you in
the culture, traditions, food & wine of Sicily.”*



Our Harvest Tours are designed for you to experience the very best that Sicily has to offer. This includes the sights, sounds and tastes of Sicily. We have a full, action packed itinerary that takes you well off the beaten tourist path, and everyday our meals are thoughtfully planned and prepared by a private chef for you to experience all the local dishes and traditional family recipes. Please see the separate food itinerary to find out what's on the menu in Sicily!

Tour Itinerary, completely escorted by Stefano & Vitina

Please be aware when booking your flight that you will arrive in Sicily the following day. We will meet you at the airport in Palermo and transport you to your lodgings where you will stay throughout your time in Sicily. You don't need to worry about packing up your suitcase until you're getting ready to leave Sicily, you'll stay in the same lodgings and sleep in the same bed for the entire duration of the trip.

Day 1: Welcome to Sicily dinner Celebration

Tonight will be a special celebration as we welcome you into our Sicilian family. It's always the Italian way to make friends, with food around the table!

(today's activity level: light)

Day 2: Palermo City & Street food tour

taking in the bustling open air markets including Vucciria Market and Mercato di Capo, where every dish tells a chapter in the history of the city. Eat at the variety of street food stalls which have been handed down from one generation of food chefs to the next, some dating back over 200 years.

We will visit the sights in Palermo where you will notice a striking blend of Baroque, Byzantine, Arabic and Norman architectural styles, a testament to all the conquerors who wanted to leave their mark on the island. These include the Palazzo dei Normanni, the Cappella Palatina and Palermo's cathedral or duomo.

Our driver then takes us a short drive away to Monreale and its 12th century cathedral that was built to rival the one in Palermo.

(today's activity level: strenuous. Bring comfortable shoes to walk around Palermo, the walking tour lasts around 4 hours with 2 sit down stops.)

Day 3: Erice by cable car / shopping in downtown Trapani

Erice is an unforgettable medieval town perched on a cliff top with breathtaking views. It is surrounded by ancient walls, crowned by a 12th century castle and is the sacred site of the temple of Venus.

Erice is known for its heavenly pastries and we make a stop at Maria Grammatico's famous pastry shop or pasticceria which has become legendary due to her book 'Bitter Almonds'. Here we will sample her Sicilian pastries and all different types of cannoli made with sheep's ricotta cheese, and be sure to get a copy of her signed book.

After lunch we will have some time for souvenir shopping in downtown Trapani.

(today's activity level: moderate. Bring walking shoes for the cobbled streets of Erice.)

Day 4: Artisan Cheesemaker followed by excursion to Selinunte

We start the day at a sheep farm where you can experience first hand the ancient craft of cheesemaking and taste the results.

From here we head to Selinunte which is one of the most expansive archeological sites in Europe. Here you can explore the Greek influence on Sicily by visiting the Acropolis, temples, ancient town walls, the ruins of the buildings and imagine what life was like 2,500 years ago.

(today's activity level: moderate. Bring walking shoes, there's a lot to explore in Selinunte.)

Day 5: Castello di Rampinzeri and Harvest Day (Olives or Wine)

First we visit the Castello di Rampinzeri in nearby Santa Ninfa where Papa Vince worked as an apprentice for the Di Stefani nobility and first learned the art of making Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

If you choose the wine tour, this is where we'll stay to learn all about Sicilian wines and the local vines that are grown in the vineyard in the castle grounds.

For the olive tour, we head back over to the Papa Vince farm to experience the traditional method of olive harvesting. You will join in the process of handpicking the olives, a technique which preserves both the delicacy of the fruit and the trees themselves, many of which are over 100 years old. You will then experience the 'Frantoio' where we press the olives with technology that allows us to continue ancient olive oil pressing techniques without compromising the quality and nutrients of the oil.

(today's activity level: moderate. You will need walking shoes for the farm & castle grounds)

Day 6: Island Excursion to Favignana

Favignana is part of the Egadi Islands just off the coast of Sicily reached by a short ferry ride. We will board a 30 ft vessel with our own skipper/chef/tour guide for a five hour adventure around the island. We make several swimming or snorkeling stops in the crystal clear Mediterranean waters and also a stop at one of the fishing villages.

(today's activity level: light. Bring a bathing suit & sunscreen)

Day 7: Castelvetrano and Trapani Sea Salt Flats

In Castelvetrano we stop at Rizzo Bakery, an artisan bake shop that makes Panne Nero, a deep brown bread made with tummina ancient grains, like the wheat in one of our pastas.

We also visit Chiesa di San Domenico'. Inside this church you'll find scriptures woven into the walls and a fascinating wall sculpture depicting the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Jesse, the father of David.

In the afternoon we head to the sea salt flats in Trapani. Here they have harvested sea salt for the past 3 centuries and you can learn about the different flavors, colors and tastes of sea salt as well as the harvesting process.

(today's activity level: moderate, there will be walking involved around the salt flats)

Day 8: Departure Day

We will escort you to the airport as we say goodbye and you make your way home.

(Please note that the itinerary specifics subject to change without notice).

REVIEWS - What our guests are saying:

“Everyday was my favorite, I loved it all!”

“Small group touring is wonderful, the trip was tailor made and specialized in things that interested us.”

“This was a trip of a lifetime where we made memories that can’t be recreated.”

All Inclusive Price - what’s included?

- **Tour Leaders:** Vitina & Stefano from Papa Vince USA, + expert local tour guides.
- **Sightseeing Excursions:** handpicked by Stefano & Vitina to experience the real Sicily. As well as the historic points of interest, we’ll be stopping at artisanal bakeries, wineries, a cheesemaker and of course, the Papa Vince olive orchards.
- **Cultural night** with traditional costume, music, singing & dancing.
- **Accommodation:** in family-run bed & breakfasts often on active farms where you get to experience the charm of the Sicilian way of life first hand.
- **All Transportation:** including airport transfers. We use a comfortable passenger van with a personal driver. You can relax and enjoy the country views.
- **Admission fees for all excursions.**
- **All tips & gratuities.**
- **Breakfasts, lunches & dinners:** bring a healthy appetite to sample a variety of Sicilian dishes. Many of the meals are served in the dining room back at the farm where we’ll all sit together and everyone is family!
- **Live Cookery Demonstrations** - learn how to make Sicilian pastries & desserts.
- **Italian Food demonstrations every night** - learn how to make Italian food with us, pastas, salads & dressings & bruschetta.
- **Olive harvest & tasting / wine tasting**

What’s not included?

- **Air fare from the US to Sicily.** When making your flight reservation to Sicily, please be aware the the flight will arrive the following day.

Physical Demands

- Our Harvest Tours are designed for the physically active. When planning your trip, please note the following:
- Some days involve a lot of walking (please see activity level on the itinerary). This can be indoors or outdoors, in all weather conditions.

- You must be able to carry your luggage, possibly on uneven pavements or up flights of stairs. We stay in one place for the entire time in Sicily but there is no elevator and you will be required to go up and down stairs.
- There may be none or weak air conditioning in the places we stay or visit.
- We choose to stay at active farms where you can experience Sicily at its best. However if you're not used to life in the country, you may be woken up by cocks crowing first thing in the morning.
- Please do not expect a TV in your room or cable TV access.
- WIFI may be limited or slower than US standards.

Tour Members Needing Special Assistance

Due to the physical nature of the tour + the accommodation and transportation we use, we are unable to accommodate guests with physical limitations (please see 'physical demands section' above).

Sicilian Cuisine Experience

We have a personal chef who prepares home cooked traditional meals every evening. Please see the separate food itinerary which details what you can expect to eat during your stay, we consider this to be a huge part of your Sicilian experience.

How to Reserve your Place on the Tour

Places are limited. Call Vitina as soon as possible at: 251-269-6000 or email: vitina@papavince.com We'd love to have you join our Sicily Harvest Tour in 2019.